

SENATE WATCH

A summary of today's Senate actions; published daily when the Senate is in session.

5/21/03

FINAL PASSAGE

HB 4238 (RIVET)

This bill would increase the current property damage amount requiring a traffic accident report from \$400 to \$1,000. This bill is necessary to help reduce the additional traffic accident reporting burdens on police officers that have resulted from the escalating prices of vehicle repairs causing even the slightest of fender benders to require immediate reporting.

- BASHAM 1 (1 amend) was adopted [no RC]. This would lower the reporting threshold from \$1,000 to \$750.
- HB 4238 passed with IE [RC 129: 37 yes, 0 no].

THIRD READING

SB 106 (Hammerstrom)

The bill would create a new act to designate the American lotus blossom as the official State symbol for clean water in Michigan.

• SB 106 was moved to 3rd Reading. No amendments.

SB 121 (Cassis)

The bill requires the Department of Treasury to publish and make available to the public bulletins and letter rulings issued by the tax commission. The bulletins and rulings shall be printed and in an electronic format.

Support: The Granholm Administration, NFIB, Michigan and Grand Rapids Chamber, CPAs.

- Committee 1 (S-1) was adopted [no RC]
- SB 121 was moved to 3rd Reading.

SB 314 (PRUSI)

The bill allows land in Marquette County to be transferred to a non-profit for the purpose of building a home to provide treatment and services for at-risk children.

Oppose: There is a small group of local people who oppose it on "not in my backyard" grounds. Most of the concerns of this group are believed to have been addressed by keeping the walking and snowmobile trails open.

• SB 314 was moved to 3rd Reading. No amendments.

HB 4285 (Ehardt)

The bill would require the Michigan Public School Employees Retirement System (MPSERS) to offer long term care insurance to retirees starting July 1, 2004. The retirees would pay the entire cost of the insurance, but would potentially receive a group discount on the coverage. The premium would be deducted from their pension benefits.

Support: Michigan Assoc. of Retired School Personnel, Retirement Coordinating Council, Elder Law of Michigan, State Long Term Care Ombudsman, MEA.

• HB 4285 was moved to 3rd Reading. No amendments.

MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR

Director of State Fair

• The Senate confirmed John Hertel as Director of the State Fair [RC 128: 37 yes, 0 no].